

Deployment Health Concerns Information Card

How to ask the question: “Is your problem today related to a deployment?”

Focus only on the chief complaint rather than on whether a person has **any** deployment-related complaints unrelated to today’s visit.

Deployment is not necessary for a patient to have deployment-related health concerns.

- For example, a spouse or child may have a concern related to the sponsor’s recent deployment. Others may have questions about deployments.
- Ask this question whether the patient is active duty, retired, family member, veteran, deployed or non-deployed.

How to respond to patient questions.

“What do you mean?” or “What do you mean, deployment-related?” The goal is to record the patient’s perception of deployment-relatedness rather than your own.

- To help the patient answer, you might ask if the patient or a loved one has been deployed. If so, is today’s visit related to that deployment.
- You may also review an example or two of a deployment-related concern or condition (see below).
- Remember this is not an exhaustive list, but simply a few examples.

“What is a deployment?” Avoid reviewing any narrow definitions of deployment for the patient. Instead, offer two or three examples of deployments (see below). Then return to the main question: “Do you feel your health concern today is related to a deployment?”

“I don’t know if it is deployment-related.” Mark the “maybe” response. Consider reviewing an example of a deployment-related concern or condition (see below).

- When in doubt, always focus on the concern rather than the deployment.

Examples of deployments include:

- Military liaison and training support
- Peacekeeping
- Humanitarian assistance
- Joint or coalition force exercises
- Low-intensity conflict
- Combat/War

Examples within the US include:

- Fighting forest fires
- Providing disaster relief
- Maintaining civil order
- Drug interdiction
- Construction projects

Examples of concerns or conditions that are deployment-related include:

- A man twists his ankle on deployment and the injury lasts even after returning home.
- A woman comes to give blood, but wants to know if she can give blood after being deployed.
- Although not deployed, a man is concerned about the effects of a pre-deployment vaccine.
- Spouse complains of a rash after washing clothes worn by member while deployed.
- After eating food while deployed, a man gets food poisoning.
- While deployed, a woman suffers a toxic exposure and later gets sick from it.
- Spouse complains that her child is having nightmares since member returned from combat.

